Interpellations and Answers.

Mr. John Mackie.

1 Q.—In view of the present period of depression through which the tea industry is passing, necessitating the closing down of some estates and the drastic curtailment of output in others, and in view of the fact that foreign-grown tea is exempt from such tax, will the Government be pleased to abolish the present export duty of Re. 1 as. 8 per 100 lbs. made tea?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

1 A.—Government regret that their financial condition does not admit of action being taken on the lines suggested by the Member.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai for
Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.

2 Q.—(*a*) With reference to the auction sale of the privilege of vending arrack and toddy in independent shops for the biennial period 1096—97, held towards the close of last year, will the Government kindly state whether any of the purchasers of arrack or toddy shops in that auction sale have committed default in the payment of the usual deposit or of any kist subsequently due for any month till the end of Medam last, resulting in the cancellation of the license in respect of their shops?

(*b*) And, if so, will the Government kindly give a statement of such shops showing the following particulars, *viz.*,

(i) the name or number and range of the shop;
(ii) the amount for which it was purchased in the auction sale;
(iii) the date of cancellation of the license;
(iv) the date of the resale, or the date fixed for the resale of the shop;
(v) the reason for the cancellation of the license, *i. e.*, whether the default was in the payment of the deposit or of any kist subsequently due, and, if the latter, the month or months in respect of which such default occurred; and
(vi) the amount for which it was purchased at the resale?

(*c*) Will the Government also kindly state whether they can account for these defaults, having regard to their number and nature?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

2 A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement giving the information required by the member is placed on the table (*vide* Appendix I).

(*c*) The total number of independent shops in the State is 1612, while the number in respect of which licenses have been cancelled is only 35. There is nothing unusual in this.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai for
Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.

3 Q.—Will the Government kindly state in what stage the proposed Trivandrum Water-Supply Scheme stands at present, when the work is likely to be started and what the estimated cost is? Will the Government kindly expedite the matter?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

3 A.—The investigation is over and the scheme awaits the completion of estimates which is being delayed for want of data concerning the value of machinery and other materials. These data are expected to be obtained shortly.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai for
Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.

4 Q.—Will the Government kindly state the total amount spent during each of the last three years on the public service of the State, *i. e.*, the amount spent each year by way of salaries and allowances to all kinds of servants under Government, superior, subordinate, permanent and temporary?

Financial Secretary Mr. K. George.

4 A.—The total expenditure under 'salaries and establishment' including allowances was, during 1093, Rs. 57,18,631, during 1094, Rs. 58,44,129, and during 1095, Rs. 62,49,566.

Mr. John Nidiry.

5 Q.—(*a*) Are not Government aware of the very urgent need of communications in North and Central Travancore, intensified by the recent stimulus in agriculture, industry and trade, and the speedy and comfortable travelling afforded by motor vehicles?

(*b*) Have Government noticed the very large and laudable activity evinced by the people in North and Central Travancore in the matter of opening public roads by private enterprise? Has not this work of the people saved Government several lakhs of rupees?

(*c*) Are Government aware that this activity is due to—

(1) the delay on the part of Government to do what was necessary either for want of funds or by the indiscriminate distribution of the same, or lack of sympathy on the part of the officers concerned;

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(2) the very large cost of works that have been taken up for investigation and estimation; and

(3) the delay and difficulty of obtaining land under the Land Acquisition Regulation ?

(*d*) Does not the bad alignment of these private roads stand in the way of the Public Works Department when it proceeds to bring those roads under departmental control for maintenance, etc. ?

(*e*) Do not Government feel that the time has come for them to take up the question of private roads in all earnestness with a view to encourage private enterprise by offering substantial co-operation and help ?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to make the necessary rules and specifications regarding—

(1) proper and speedy alignment of roads by the Public Works Department before the work is commenced by the people;

(2) re-adjustment of the existing Poramboke lands with those of the neighbouring land owners for purposes of proper alignment;

(3) prompt acquisition of lands belonging to recalcitrant owners by the Revenue Department by some summary method;

(4) the grant or contribution, by the Government, of a portion of the expenses;

(5) the construction of culverts and bridges by the Department without delay; and

(6) the taking of the roads by the Department for maintenance, etc., as soon as they are completed ?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

5 A.—The Chief Engineer has, at the instance of Government, submitted a set of draft rules on the subject, and they are now under the consideration of Government.

Mr. John Nidiry.

6 Q.—(*a*) Are Government aware of the pendency of a very large number of transfer of registry cases in the Land Revenue Department to the great inconvenience of the tax-payers and the Village Officers who have to realise the tax?

(*b*) Have Government any idea of the great hardship experienced by land holders in the matter of the enjoyment of their lands and the due payment of their share of the land tax, as the Patta, Settlement Register, Chitta, Survey Plan and other Settlement Records are not corrected up to-date in accordance with the several transfers that have taken place after the issue of the Patta at the last Settlement?

(*c*) Are Government aware of the fact that the list of voters for the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly prepared by the Land Revenue Department are imperfect and that those who want to correct the list find it extremely difficult on account of the unsatisfactory state of these records?

(*d*) Would it not be feasible for Government to authorize the Tahsildars to issue provisional Pattas every year noting the changes up to date in accordance with the several transfers effected after the issue of the Patta from the Settlement Department? If so, will Government be pleased to arrange accordingly?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

6 A.—Tahsildars have the power to issue pattas in pokkuvaravu cases. There is, therefore, no need for the grant of provisional pattas. The remedy lies in the quick disposal of pokkuvaravu cases and in the prompt issue of pattas by revenue officers. Government are insisting on both these items of work being done expeditiously and have empowered Assistant Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars also to deal with pokkuvaravu cases. The revised Pokkuvaravu Rules, issued recently under date the 6th March 1921, are intended to secure this object.

Mr. John Nidiry.

7 Q.—(*a*) Do Government sufficiently know the difficulties experienced by the people in obtaining copies of Oloogus, Oloogu forms, Land Registers, Survey Plans, Chittas and other public Land Revenue Records from the Revenue Department?

(*b*) When every man has a right to get copies of registered private documents from the Sub-Registrar's Office, why should Government show so much reluctance in giving copies of public records to those who apply for the same?

(*c*) Why should Government insist on the production of a certificate from a Civil Court whenever a person applies for a copy of a land revenue record of another's property, without which the former cannot purchase land or sell it through the Civil Court in execution of court decrees?

(*d*) Do Government think that any man's right over his property will be prejudicially affected by giving copies of these records?

(*e*) Do not Government think that the production of a certificate from a Civil Court for getting copies of these records is very often impracticable and that it is an unnecessary impediment without any corresponding advantage either to Government or to the parties concerned?

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